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Human Development Report

Update on *Human Development Report* consultations

1. In January 2003 during its 57th session, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/57/264, in which it invited the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA to include in its annual work plan as from 2003 a separate agenda item on the *Human Development Report*. The aim of the resolution is to improve the consultation process with Member States regarding the *Human Development Report* in order to enhance its quality and accuracy without compromising its editorial independence.

2. In line with this resolution, the Administrator submitted a report to the Executive Board at its annual session in June 2003. In that report, he emphasizes that the number of consultations on the *Human Development Report 2003* increased from three in previous years to five in 2003. He also highlighted improvements in the quality of consultations and in the coverage of specific issues that took place over the period of the preparation of the report.

3. For the *Human Development Report 2004*, UNDP has maintained the frequency of consultations as in 2003. The Human Development Report Office (HDRO) held consultations with the members of the Executive Board on five occasions. The first related to the theme of the report and discussed its outline. The second focused on the structure of the report, including its tentative chapter headings and sections. The third consultation was specifically about the statistics in the report. The HDRO is working on improving the statistics in the report in order to ensure consistency between national and international sources of data. The fourth will focus on the final detailed chapter structure, which underwent revision after a process of drafting and consultation with the report's expert advisory panel and the members of the Board. The final consultation will discuss the messages of the report, once the document is finalized.

4. The Human Development Report Office is committed to maintaining this level of consultation with the members of the Executive Board in future years. The HDRO remains committed to the preparation of the *Human Development Report* in a neutral and transparent manner and in full and effective consultation with Member States, with due regard to the impartial nature and use of sources.

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